

tional standards, while providing support to States and communities to help them reach those standards. Fifty million Americans have no high school diploma, and half of those who do graduate do not go on to college. We must be sure that these Americans receive the education and training they need to compete in a high-wage, high-skills economic climate.

Literacy is not a luxury. It is a right and a responsibility. It is hard for most of us to imagine functioning in our society without the ability to complete a job application or balance a checkbook. It is a disadvantage that is intolerable in a Nation dedicated to the principles of freedom and equality.

In recent years progress has been made toward a more widely literate society. States and communities, volunteer and religious organizations, businesses and labor organizations have all made invaluable contributions to raising public awareness and assisting undereducated adults. I applaud the good work that these groups have done, and I encourage them to join in a partnership with our Federal initiatives to completely erase American illiteracy by the year 2000.

To recognize the urgent need to increase literacy to ensure the future well-being of our country and all its citizens, the Congress, by House Joint Resolution 213, has designated July 2, 1993, and July 2, 1994, as "National Literacy Day" and has requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim July 2, 1993, and July 2, 1994, as "National Literacy Day."

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of July, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventeenth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:53 a.m., July 6, 1993]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on July 7. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's Meetings With South African Leaders

July 2, 1993

The President held separate meetings this afternoon with South African State President F.W. de Klerk and African National Congress President Nelson Mandela. The meetings lasted about 30 minutes each.

The two meetings focused on the process of democratic reform in South Africa and how the United States can assist that historic process. The President expressed his appreciation for the leadership demonstrated by both individuals in moving South Africa towards the threshold of a nonracial democracy. He expressed particular admiration to President Mandela for his courage and dignity through decades of struggle and sacrifice against the evils of apartheid and to President de Klerk for his wisdom and determination in moving to dismantle that destructive system. He welcomed the announcement earlier today of the setting of a date for holding the first nonracial elections in South Africa's history and the progress made toward creation of a Transitional Executive Council (TEC) which will help ensure those elections are free and fair.

The President welcomed the progress achieved in the negotiations in the last few days and commended all those working for a peaceful transition to democracy. He pledged that the United States will be a full partner in building democracy in South Africa, including continued support for programs of voter education and training of election monitors. He stressed the need to begin to tackle the cruel legacies of apartheid, including economic inequity, unemployment, inadequate housing, and poor education for South Africa's nonwhite population. He said that the United States will press for a commitment at the G-7 summit in Tokyo next week to reintegrate South Africa into the world economy with agreement on a non-racial democracy.

The President noted that the administration is working with Congress and antiapartheid groups to develop additional support measures once negotiations have progressed to the point where it is appro-

appropriate to lift remaining sanctions. Among these measures are negotiation of an OPIC investment encouragement agreement, a tax treaty, and a housing investment guarantee program. Once the TEC is created, the United States will stand ready to support its institutions designed to facilitate a smooth transition to democracy.

The President also underscored the importance of the private sector in creating growth and equality in South Africa. He looks forward to the day when all South Africans can call for the lifting of remaining economic and financial sanctions, including state and local government sanctions, and hopes that day will come soon.

The President also expressed to President de Klerk the deep appreciation of the United States for the recent decision by the Government of South Africa to forgo development of a space-launch vehicle program. He noted that the United States can now look forward to cooperation with a democratic South Africa on the peaceful uses of space technology.

The President said that he welcomed the opportunity to celebrate our Independence Day by presenting Freedom Awards to Presidents de Klerk and Mandela in Philadelphia on Sunday, July 4.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Nomination for Ambassador to South Korea

July 2, 1993

The President announced today that he intends to nominate James T. Laney, the president of Emory University, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Korea.

"As I prepare for my visit to Seoul next week, I am very pleased to make this announcement," said the President. "James Laney is a greatly admired scholar and leader with an understanding and respect for Korea based on more than 45 years experience with the country. He will make an outstanding Ambassador."

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary. This

item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Statement on Signing Legislation Extending Fast Track Procedures for the Uruguay Round

July 2, 1993

Today I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 1876, extending legislative "fast track" procedures to conclude the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. I want to extend my thanks to the Congress for its broad bipartisan support for this legislation and the Administration's trade policies.

Fast track authority is critical to our effort to complete these important negotiations by December 15, 1993. Fast track procedures give our negotiators the bargaining power they need in Geneva, while at the same time ensuring the Congress' role during the negotiation and approval of a Uruguay Round agreement.

The Uruguay Round is an ambitious effort, involving more than 100 nations, to lower tariff and non-tariff barriers around the world and to strengthen and update a set of rules for international trade that have become increasingly ineffective and obsolete.

Completion of the Uruguay Round would provide a major boost to the world economy at a time when it is crucially needed. As the world's leading exporter—and the world's most open economy—the United States stands to benefit significantly by reducing trade barriers and opening markets around the world for manufactured goods, agricultural products, and services.

We remain committed to completing these important negotiations this year, and we will encourage our trading partners to make their contribution to bringing the negotiations to a successful conclusion.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
July 2, 1993.

NOTE: H.R. 1876, approved July 2, was assigned Public Law No. 103-49. This statement was re-